This MoU is expected to boost bilateral co-operation as well as bilateral trade in the areas of interest.

Indian Labourers in Sharjah

†1584. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 22 Indian labourers victims of unscrupulous activity of an agent luring the people with a job abroad are living in very miserable conditions in Sharjah and an inhuman treatment is being meted out to them; and

(b) if so, what arrangements have been made by Government to help Indian labourers alongwith the action taken against the above agent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) As per the information received from Consulate General of India, Dubai, 22 workers taken to UAE by the Indian partner of a firm had started working since June, 1999, but due to some problem between the Indian partner and the sponsor, visas were not stamped and the workers stopped work after about three months. On intervention by the CGI, Dubai, the labour department has agreed to provide necessary assistance in facilitating stamping of the visas. The sponsor has also agreed to get temporary work permit processed. Alternate jobs have since been located for them and formalities for transfer of visa to new employers are under process.

The workers currently housed in a flat in Sharjah are reported to be in good health. The Indian partner had provided food etc. to them for some time. Now, the Indian association is extending necessary help. The Indian partner who had taken the workers to UAE is presently under Police custody in Sharjah in some other case.

Cheating by overseas Recruiting Agencies

1585. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many of hapless unemployed being cheated by the overseas recruiting agencies especially the computer programme training agencies in the name of providing employment in Gulf and other countries;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) what are the State-wise details of the agencies involved in such fraudulent activities; and

(c) what are the steps Government have taken so far to regulate the activities of these recruiting agencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) Sporadic complaints regarding cheating of intending emigrants are received against the agencies engaged in the business of recruitment of Indian workers for overseas employment. Some of the agencies against whom the complaints are received are registered with the Government while others are operating unauthorisedly. Complaints generally relate to charging of service charges in excess of the amount provided for under the rules, collection of money from the intending emigrants but not actually sending them for overseas employment, sending off some of the workers to other countries against non-existent jobs and, in some cases, change in the terms and conditions of employment of the workers on their reaching the alien land. During the last one year, 62 complaints were received against registered recruiting agencies in the following five States:

(1)	Andhra Pradesh	06
(2)	Delhi	13
(3)	Kerala	07
(4)	Maharashtra	28
(5)	Tamil Nadu	08

101 complaints against various individuals/agencies not authorised to make recruitment under the Emigration Act, 1983, were also received from different parts of the country.

(c) In the event of complaints being against the registered recruiting agencies, the agents are directed to settle the grievances of the workers and submit compliance report, in a definite time-frame to the Protector General of Emigrants/Registering Authority. For non-compliance of such directions, action for suspension/cancellation of Registration Certificates and, if necessary, forfeiture of the Bank Guarantee furnished by the registered recruiting agent at the time of registration, is initiated. Complaints against the unauthorised recruiting agents are referred to the police for investigation and filing of cases against them. All the State Governments have also been requested to keep a

strict vigil on the activities of the unauthorised recruiting agents.

New Pension Scheme for Unorganised Sector

1586. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce a new pension scheme for unorganised sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how soon the new scheme would be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) The Govt. has already introduced a new pension scheme namely the Employees Pension Scheme, 1995, for the industrial wokers. The scheme is applicable to the employees engaged in 177 industries/classes of establishments employing 20 or more persons. The scheme does not make any discrimination between organised and unorganised sectors. Many unorganised sectors like bidi, brick, katha, agarbatti, building/construction, coir, agricultural farms, cattle-breeding, poultry farming, chutni industries, etc. are already covered under the Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995.

Second National Commission on Labour

1587. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up the Second National Commission on Labour;

(b) if so, whether Government agreed in the Indian Labour Conference that the terms of reference of the Commission would be finalised in consultation with trade unions and employees representatives;

(c) whether any meeting was convened by the Ministry of Labour before finalising the terms of reference; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (d) The decision to set up the